

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action, dated October 18, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-24 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claims 1, 8, 15, and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-24 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0003596 to Kim (hereinafter "Kim"). Claims 4, 5, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0179327 to Nonaka et al. (hereinafter "Nonaka"). Claims 15-17 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim. Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0160918 to Rho (hereinafter "Rho").

The rejection of claims 1-24 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-3 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a buffer layer on the black matrix, the buffer layer having a groove corresponding to and over the black matrix." Claims 8-10 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "forming a buffer layer on the black matrix, the buffer layer having a groove corresponding to and over the black matrix." Kim does not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. As admitted by Examiner Kim "discloses a groove deliberately positioned beside the black matrix to achieve a precise stepped thickness of the color filter layer." Therefore, the "groove" of Kim is not over the black matrix, but beside it. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3 and 8-10 are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 4, 5, 11, and 12 are also allowable over Kim as they depend from allowable claims 1 and 8, respectively, for the reasons described above. Nonaka fails to cure this deficiency Kim, therefore claims 4, 5, 11, and 12 are allowable over Kim and Nonaka.

Claims 15-17 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a buffer layer on the black matrix, the buffer layer having a groove corresponding to and over the black matrix." Claims 20-22 are allowable

over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "forming a buffer layer on the black matrix, the buffer layer having a groove corresponding to and over the black matrix." Kim does not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. As admitted by Examiner Kim "discloses a groove deliberately positioned beside the black matrix to achieve a precise stepped thickness of the color filter layer." Therefore, the "groove" of Kim is not over the black matrix, but beside it. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 15-17 and 20-22 are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 21, and 24 are also allowable over Kim as they depend from allowable claims 1, 8, 15, and 20 respectively for the reasons described above. Rho fails to cure this deficiency Kim, therefore claims 4, 5, 11, and 12 are allowable over Kim and Rho.


Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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